

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are present in the above-captioned application and have been subjected to restriction under 35 U.S.C. §121 as follows:

- Group I: Claims 1-13 drawn to an aneurysm bypass system;
- Group II: Claim 14 drawn to an extension stent-graft;
- Group III: Claims 15-16 drawn to a method of implantation;
- Group IV: Claims 17-18 drawn to a connector; and
- Group V: Claim 19 drawn to a kit.

The restriction requirement is traversed. The fact that the Patent Office classifies Claims 1-13, Claim 14, Claims 15-16, Claims 17-18 and Claim 19 in different parts of its classification system does not show that these five groups of claims have acquired a separate status in the art. The classification system developed by the Patent Office has over 100,000 different categories and is intended to help Examiners and other individuals find references relatively quickly; not to show whether particular subjects are considered to be separate by those in the art. The classification system of the Patent Office is constantly being changed, clearly showing that it is not a good basis for making a

permanent decision about whether five groups of claims should be divided among five separate patent applications.

Hence, it is respectfully urged that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the requirement for restriction and provide an action on the merits with respect to all of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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